

REPORT

OF THE

SECOND KENTUCKY LUNATIC ASYLUM,

(AT HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY),

FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 13, 1873.

FRANKFORT, KY.:
PRINTED AT THE KENTUCKY YEOMAN OFFICE,
S. I. M. MAJOR, PUBLIC PRINTER.
1873.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

To His Excellency, P. H. LESLIE, Governor of Kentucky :

The report that it is our duty, as Commissioners of the Second Kentucky Lunatic Asylum, to make annually, may properly be brief. We have little or nothing to offer in the way of suggestion for the future, as our wants are supplied in nearly all of the departments of this extensive charity, and the law passed at the last session of the General Assembly is now being tested. So far as the experience of the last six months goes, this law, in its important features, seems to work well. Time enough has not yet elapsed to pronounce definitely whether some modifications of the minor features of this act might not be proper, and this with the view of simplifying only some of the less important duties of the officers; but we may safely say that, taken as a whole, the law is in successful operation.

Meetings of the Board of Commissioners have been held regularly for the transaction of all business which would properly come before us; and others have been had only with the view of examining the Asylum thoroughly. Besides these meetings, individual members have, from time to time, inspected all of the various departments of the Institution, wards, kitchen, store-rooms, laundries, etc., neglecting nothing that required attention. It affords us pleasure to be able to say that the results of careful inspection have been gratifying in an eminent degree. We have much cause for congratulation and thankfulness in the beneficial effects which have been experienced during the past year from the continued good management of Dr. James Rodman, the Superintendent. At no time, in a history signalized by uninterrupted growth in usefulness, has this charity given evidence of such perfection in the conduct of all its various features. The patients have an abundance of wholesome food and comfortable clothing, and the greatest pains are taken to promote their physical and mental well-being. The excellent order in which the building and grounds are kept, the quiet, orderly deportment of the inmates, the warmth and perfect cleanliness of their apartments, and the watchful care and labors of subordinate officers and employees, attest, in a gratifying degree, the unexampled skill and administrative ability of the Superintendent.

The tables annexed will give a correct idea of the movement of the Asylum population, and such other information as the law requires.

These tables, of course, are furnished us by Dr. Rodman, and abstracted from his report to us.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining October 10th, 1872-----			313
Admitted since -----	47	26	73
Whole number-----			386
Discharged restored -----	19	10	29
Discharged improved -----	3	3	6
Discharged unimproved -----	3	1	4
Eloped -----	1	1	2
Transferred to Fourth Asylum -----	21	12	33
Died -----	17	13	30
	64	40	104
Remaining -----			282

In remarking upon the medical management of the Asylum, Dr. Rodman observes, that "for some years past the results of our work in this Asylum have been much the same; a reasonable per centage of restorations to health have rewarded our efforts towards cure, and the mortality among those intrusted to our care is not beyond that which happens in other Institutions of like character. The health of our patients has been generally good, although a rather larger proportion of deaths has occurred than during last year; they have been for the most part occasioned by chronic troubles affecting the brain and lungs; that scourge of hospitals for the insane, consumption, having caused the death of a large proportion of those dying. Intercurrent diseases have not been frequent or fatal; attributable, I believe, to the attention given to the condition of the house and its surroundings, the removal of every possible local cause of disease. Neither cholera, fever, nor dysentery, gave us any serious trouble during their prevalence in our vicinity, and in other not remote localities.

"Until recently, the applications for admission have been largely in excess of our ability to receive those who sought relief at our hands. Now, however, the case is different. The removal of a considerable number of patients (thirty-three) to the Fourth Asylum at Anchorage, has given an amount of room here which will be sufficient to meet the demand from our own district for that class of patients which the law assigns us, for some time to come, provided that no others than the class alluded to are ordered here by the courts. We have no discretionary power to reject those that, beyond question, have no moral right to a residence at the expense of the public, either by virtue of their poverty or their affliction.

I am of opinion that some legislation is necessary to prevent the Asylums of our State from being burdened by a character of cases that are not properly the wards of the Commonwealth, or pensioners upon the common treasury. There must be some limit fixed to the exhibition of charity itself. The public has its rights, and whilst it throws wide the doors of its charities, it should be seen to that only those who should properly do so enter them."

It will be seen by reference to accounts transmitted to your Excellency, that a considerable sum has been expended in improvements and repairs. The item of repairs is or ought to be large; an establishment of the magnitude of this, inhabited by the character of people who are received, as has been before observed, "whose mission, for the time they remain, seems to be to defile, mutilate, and destroy," requires necessarily constant repairs, and often of an expensive kind. During the year past, internal repairs have been unusually frequent, requiring the services of two carpenters for a considerable part of their time, of a painter constantly, and of a plumber and steam-fitter and plasterer occasionally. A storm last spring tore away some forty or more squares of the tin roof of the building, all of which had to be replaced with new material. The boilers, which have been in use for nearly twenty years, required repairs to the amount of over \$1,000 to render them safe and efficient. In addition to the items mentioned, the roof of the entire house has been repainted, a large amount of plank fencing has been made, to say nothing of numberless small jobs, executed from time to time. Our effort is to keep the entire establishment constantly in perfect order, as a matter of comfort and economy.

In conclusion, we can say that, seconded by those to whom are intrusted the immediate care and control of the unfortunates now under treatment in this Institution, all is being accomplished that a properly exacting public can reasonably expect. We take occasion to commend our charge to you, and through you to the General Assembly, as worthy of the fullest measure of confidence and a generous support.

S. E. TRICE, *President.*
R. T. PETREE,
GEO. O. THOMPSON,
E. R. COOK,
W. E. WARFIELD,
JAS. E. JESSUP,
S. G. BUCKNER,
JOHN N. MILLS,
RICHARD DURRETT.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1873	\$835 88
Received of Auditor of Kentucky	30,280 55
Received of pay patients	1,243 77
Received on overpaid vouchers for 1872	31 28
Received to correct errors in account of J. Moore, Treasurer for 1868-'9.	7 15
	\$32,398 63

EXPENDITURES.

Expenditures for January, 1873	\$2,764 47
Expenditures for February, 1873	5,302 21
Expenditures for March, 1873	4,588 93
Expenditures for April, 1873	6,828 74
	19,484 35
Cash on hand May 1st, 1873	\$12,914 28

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand May 1st, 1873	\$12,914 28
Received of Auditor of Kentucky	30,044 53
Received of pay patients	1,338 00
Received of T. G. Mallory, Steward, balance in his hands	159 34
Received for stock sold	99 05
	\$44,555 20

EXPENDITURES.

Expenditures in May, 1873	\$10,120 98
Expenditures in June, 1873	5,017 66
Expenditures in July, 1873	6,650 56
Expenditures in August, 1873	3,865 45
Expenditures in September, 1873	4,574 78
Expenditures in October, 1873 (paid to 13th November)	5,666 51
Accounts (of October) audited and not presented for payment	890 16
	36,786 10
November 13th, 1873, cash on hand	\$7,769 10

Respectfully submitted.

JNO. B. TRICE, *Treasurer.*

